Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as in the following listing:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 26, ~~1~~, wherein the jaw element section is substantially fully radially external to the reinforcing bars, thus not having any part between the ends of the reinforcing bars.

3. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 26, ~~1~~, wherein the tapered collars axially engage the jaw element section to force the jaw elements inward.

4. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 26, ~~1~~, wherein the jaw elements each have teeth along an inner surface.

5. (Original) The splice of claim 4, wherein the teeth are substantially circumferentially oriented.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The splice of claim 4, wherein the teeth are asymmetric teeth, each having a slope on one face that is different than a slope on an opposite face.

8. (Original) The splice of claim 4, wherein the teeth are symmetric teeth, each having a slope on one face that is substantially the same as a slope on an opposite face.

9-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A reinforcing bar splice comprising: ~~The splice of claim 18,~~

jaw element sections configured to engage ends of generally axially aligned reinforcing bars; and

tapered collars for engaging tapered outer surfaces of the jaw element sections to force jaw elements of the jaw element sections inward to grip ends of the reinforcing bars;

wherein each of the jaw element sections is a multi-part jaw element section including, as separate pieces:

a tapered shell ~~having the tapered outer surfaces~~; and

one or more of the jaw elements radially inward of the tapered shell, and in contact with ~~lwth~~ the tapered shell, for contacting and gripping the ends ~~at least one~~ of the reinforcing bars; and

wherein the tapered shells include the tapered outer surfaces of the jaw element section.

27. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 26, wherein the jaw elements fit into corresponding recesses of the tapered shells ~~shell~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 26, wherein, for each of the parts, the one or more jaw elements include jaw elements on respective of the ends of the tapered shell.

29. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 28, wherein the each of the parts ~~shell~~ includes multiple of the jaw elements at each of the ends of the shell.

30. (Currently Amended) A reinforcing bar splice comprising: ~~The splice of claim 26,~~

at least two jaw element sections configured to engage ends of generally axially aligned reinforcing bars, wherein the jaw element sections include multiple jaw elements physically coupled together; and

tapered collars for engaging tapered outer surfaces of the jaw element sections to force the jaw elements inward to grip ends of the reinforcing bars;

wherein each of the jaw element sections is a multi-part jaw element section including:

a tapered shell having the tapered outer surfaces; and

at least one of the jaw elements radially inward of the tapered shell, and in contact with the tapered shell, for contacting and gripping at least one of the reinforcing bars; and

wherein the jaw elements are parallelepiped-shape jaw elements.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A reinforcing bar splice comprising: ~~The splice of claim 31,~~

a jaw element section configured to engage ends of generally axially aligned reinforcing bars, wherein the jaw element section includes multiple jaw elements; and

tapered collars for engaging tapered outer surfaces of the jaw element section to force the jaw elements inward to grip ends of the reinforcing bars;

wherein the tapered collars each include an inner sleeve portion and an outer sleeve portion, and wherein the sleeve portions include different materials; and

wherein the material of the outer sleeve portion has a greater tensile strength than the material of the inner sleeve portion.

33. (Original) The splice of claim 32, wherein the material of the outer sleeve portion includes carbon fibers.

34. (Original) The splice of claim 33, wherein the carbon fibers include wound carbon thread.

35. (Currently Amended) A reinforcing bar splice comprising: ~~The splice of claim 1,~~

a jaw element section configured to engage ends of generally axially aligned reinforcing bars, wherein the jaw element section includes multiple jaw elements; and

tapered collars for engaging tapered outer surfaces of the jaw element section to force the jaw elements inward to grip ends of the reinforcing bars;

wherein the tapered collars include wound carbon thread.

36. (Original) The splice of claim 35, wherein the tapered collars further include a steel inner sleeve portion between the carbon thread and the outer surfaces of the jaw elements.

37. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 26, ~~1,~~ wherein the tapered collars have an inner surface coated with a lubricant.

38. (Original) The splice of claim 37, wherein the lubricant includes a synthetic polymer material.

39. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 26, ~~1,~~ in combination with the reinforcing bars.

40-55. (Canceled)

56. (New) The splice of claim 26, wherein the jaw elements each have a parallelepiped shape.

57. (New) The splice of claim 56, wherein the jaw elements each have teeth along an inner surface for gripping the ends of the reinforcing bars.

58. (New) The splice of claim 57, wherein the jaw elements each have a flat back surface and flat side surfaces.

59. (New) The splice of claim 57, wherein the jaw elements each have a rectangular cross section in any direction.

60. (New) The splice of claim 4, wherein the teeth of the jaw elements are flat, without curvature.

61. (New) The splice of claim 4, wherein the teeth have curvature.

62. (New) The splice of claim 27, wherein the recesses bear against respective back surfaces of the jaw elements.

63. (New) The splice of claim 62, wherein the recesses are shaped to engage respective side and end surfaces of respective of the jaw elements.

64. (New) The splice of claim 63, wherein the jaw elements each have a parallelepiped shape.

65. (New) The splice of claim 63, wherein the jaw elements each have a curved shape.

66. (New) The splice of claim 27, wherein the recesses and jaw elements have corresponding sloped shapes for preferentially orienting the jaw elements within the recesses.

67. (New) The splice of claim 65, wherein the teeth are asymmetric teeth, each having a slope on one face that is different than a slope on an opposite face.

68. (New) The splice of claim 26,

wherein inner surfaces of the collars bear radially inward against the tapered outer surface of the tapered shells of each of the jaw element section; and

wherein the tapered shells in turn bear radially inward against the at least one of the jaw elements of each of the jaw element sections.